

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 PA-01 SS-15

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O P 131345Z AUG 76

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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USDELMC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

DIRNSA

S E C R E T ATHENS 8363

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PFOR US GR

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: TIMETABLE AND STATUS OF
MAJOR ISSUES

REF: A. STATE 197433 (NOTAL),

B. ATHENS 8060 (DTG 061524Z AUG 76),

C. ATHENS 7821 (DTG 021841Z AUG 76)

D. ATHENS 8306 (DTG 121651Z AUG 76)

1. THE SISMIK CRISIS, WHICH BEGAN LAST WEEKEND, HAS NOT
ONLY MADE WAVES IN THE AEGEAN, IT HAS ALSO WASHED AWAY
ANY CHANCE OF COMPLETING THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL THE
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CRISIS SUBSIDES. ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THAT SATISFACTORY,

AND ON CERTAIN POINTS, SIGNIFICANT, PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE PAST THREE WEEKS, THE REMAINING ISSUES WILL REQUIRE HARD WORK AND FURTHER COMPROMISE. WE HAVE LEARNED BY EXPERIENCE THAT NO COMPROMISE ON THE GREEK SIDE IS POSSIBLE ON KEY ISSUES WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF BITSIOS AND SOMETIMES CARAMANLIS. BOTH ARE AT PRESENT FULLY ENGAGED IN THE VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL INITIATIVES THAT GREECE IS TAKING IN THE AEGEAN DISPUTE. BITSIOS WILL PROBABLY REMAIN IN NEW YORK UNTIL THE MIDDLE OR END OF NEXT WEEK, DEPENDING ON THE LENGTH OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE, AND EVEN THE GREEK MILITARY MEMBERS OF THE SUBGROUPS ARE BEING PULLED AWAY FROM MEETINGS FOR SISMILK-RELATED ACTIVITIES. MFA'S CAPABLE LAWYER, MACHERITSAS, WHO HAS PROVED TO BE AN INDISPENSABLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ELEMENT ON ALL LEGAL PROBLEMS UNDER DISCUSSION, DEPARTS FOR THE HAGUE THIS WEEKEND TO HANDLE GREECE'S APPEAL TO THE ICJ. HE IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN FOR A WEEK OR TEN DAYS. CALOGERAS WILL ALSO BE AWAY NEXT WEEK.

2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDE THAT IT WOULD BE FRUITLESS TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS IN ATHENS NEXT WEEK OR THE WEEK AFTER. IT WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC TO RECESS TOMORROW, AUG 14, AND AIM AT RESUMPTION ON OR ABOUT SEP 1, BY WHICH TIME THE SISMILK DISPUTE SHOULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER AND WE WILL BETTER BE ABLE TO JUDGE ITS EFFECTS, IF ANY, ON THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THIS RECESS NEED NOT BE TIME WASTED. THE TEXT OF THE DCA AND MOST OF THE APPENDICES, ANNEXES AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION CAN ALREADY BE PUT IN FINAL FORM. THE REMAINING PROBLEMS HAVE FOR THE MOST PART BEEN CLEARLY DEFINED AND MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION RETURNING TO WASHINGTON WILL BE ABLE TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF RESOLVING THEM. EVEN BEFORE THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS IN ATHENS, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WITH BITSIOS AND CALOGERAS AND WORK OUT COMPROMISES WHICH CAN THEN BE ADOPTED IN THE LAST PHRASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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4. WE ARE NOT, IN FACT, FAR FROM AGREEMENT ON THESE REMAINING ISSUES. STEARNS SAW CALOGERAS YESTERDAY AND THE GREEK NEGOTIATOR CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT COST-SHARING, AND RESIDUAL VALUE CAN BE SETTLED ALONG THE LINES OF OUR RECENT DISCUSSIONS (REF C). HE STILL THINKS THAT THE QUESTION OF GENERAL ACCESS POSES GREATER DIFFICULTIES, BUT PROMISED STEARNS THAT MACHERITSAS, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE HAGUE, WILL SUGGEST NEW

COMPROMISE LANGUAGE FOR OUR CONSIDERATION. REGARDING LEVELS OF US UTILIZATION AT SOUDA AB, CALOGERAS AGAINST SAID THAT THERE WAS ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY IN THE GREEK POSITION, ALTHOUGH HE DOUBTED THAT POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS WERE ELASTIC ENOUGH TO GIVE US EVERYTHING WE WERE SEEKING. HE REPEATED THAT THE TACAIR QUESTION MIGHT, AS STEARNS HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED, BE LEFT OPEN BY THE INTRODUCTION OF NEUTRAL LANGUAGE INTO THE SOUDA APPENDIX PROVIDING FOR PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE ADEQUACY OF EXISTING RATES OF UTILIZATION BY US AIRCRAFT. CALOGERAS ALSO WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE PROBLEM OF AGREEING ON PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR A US-ONLY AREA AT IRAKLION COULD BE SOLVED AND THE GREEK SIDE WOULD BE ABLE TO SCALE DOWN ITS DEMANDS FOR EXCESSIVELY DETAILED PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT INVENTORIES IN THE APPENDICES AS LONG AS WE WERE PREPARED TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE GREEK GOVT ON A CLASSIFIED BASIS IN ANOTHER FORM.

5. WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE THAT THE FOREGOING ISSUES ARE NEAR RESOLUTION. THERE WILL BE LAST MINUTE STICKING POINTS, BUT NONE OF THE PROBLEMS SHOULD CONSTITUTE MAJOR ROADBLOCKS. THREE OTHER ISSUES -- OR, MORE CORRECTLY, ASPECTS OF ISSUES--COULD PROVE TROUBLESOME AND CERTAINLY NEED MORE WORK. ON PARITY OF PROCUREMENT, THE GREEK SIDE HAS PROPOSED A MAMMOTH SHOPPING LIST WHICH THEY WISH TO ATTACH TO THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES, AND EVEN THOUGH THE NOTE ITSELF DOES NOT COMMIT US TO PROVIDE THE EQUIPMENT AT SPECIFIC PRICES BY CERTAIN DATES, WE WILL WANT TO WHITTLE THE LIST DOWN TO MORE REALISTIC PROPORTIONS. REGARDING HELLENIKON, WE WILL HAVE TO REACH SOME UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GREEK GOVT ABOUT THE TIMING OF RELOCATION

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OF DEPENDENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES, PREFERABLY ONE WHICH GIVES US MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO REACH THIS UNDERSTANDING BEFORE THE END OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO DO SO. LASTLY, WE WILL HAVE TO RESPOND TO THE GREEK GOVT'S INCREASINGLY INSISTENT REQUEST FOR DETAILED COST FIGURES (REF D) FOR AN EXPANDED GREEK DCS IN THE AEGEAN. THIS WILL REQUIRE DECISIONS IN WASHINGTON AND WE WILL BE SENDING A SEPARATE MESSAGE ON THIS SUBJECT.

6. AS WE NOW SEE THE CALENDAR FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS DEVELOPING, WE WOULD BEGIN THE FINAL PHASE ON OR ABOUT SEP 1, WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT INITIALING COULD OCCUR WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THAT DATE. ASSUMING THAT THE AGREEMENTS AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION COULD

BE PUT IN FINAL FORM EVEN BEFORE INITIALING OCCURRED,
IT SHOULD THEN BE POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE SIGNATURE VERY
SHORTLY AFTER MID-SEPTEMBER. THIS, OF COURSE, IS NOT
AS EARLY AS WE HAD HOPED, BUT WOULD STILL PERMIT US-
GREEK DCA TO GO TO CONGRESS BEFORE RECESS. WHILE THE
SISMIK CRISIS HAS INTRODUCED A NEW ELEMENT INTO AN
ALREADY COMPLICATED EQUATION, WITH CONSEQUENCES STILL
IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCESS, WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THAT
THE GREEK GOVT HAS MADE A DELIBERATE DECISION TO
DEFER CONCLUSION OF THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL CONGRESS
HAS RECESSED. THE CURRENT ROUND OF TALKS HAS PRODUCED
SEVERAL MODIFICATIONS OF THE GREEK POSITION ON KEY
ISSUES. ANY ONE OF THEM WOULD HAVE PROVIDED A BETTER
PRETEXT FOR DELAY THAN THE ISSUES WHICH REMAIN. WE
THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT SOLUTIONS WILL BE FOUND AND
THE DCA WILL BE CONCLUDED IN SEPTEMBER, IF GREEK-US
RELATIONS ARE NOT JOLTED OUT OF THEIR PRESENT UPWARD
SPIRAL BY SOME EXTRANEIOUS SHOCK.
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